

**347<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body of ILO**

**Agenda Item INS/8**

**ILO strategy on decent work in supply chains**

**Statement delivered by Mr. Muhammad Wishaq, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development  
(15 March 2023)**

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**Honorable Chairperson,**

Pakistan is a key player in the global supply chain, particularly in the textiles industry, and we recognize the crucial role that Decent Work plays in ensuring the sustainability of these supply chains. We understand that it is essential to guarantee that workers' rights are protected and respected, and that the principles of Decent Work are upheld in all aspects of production.

In recent years, we have closely monitored the efforts of the European Union members to ensure Due Diligence in their supply chains. To align with the International Labour Standards (ILS) and ensure that our supply chains comply with national laws, the Government of Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Better Work Global and ILO Country Office. This initiative aims to bring informal employment and the informal economy under regulation, thus ensuring that all workers have access to Decent Work.

Furthermore, we recognize that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) also need support in meeting the requirements of national laws and International Labour Standards. Therefore, we are working towards building capacity for SMEs to ensure that they can provide Decent Work at all tiers of the supply chain.

In addition to this, we are committed to enhancing the capacity of social partners to ensure outreach and access to parts of the supply chain that are currently unregulated. By doing so, we can ensure that all workers, regardless of their position in the supply chain, have access to Decent Work.

To support these initiatives, the Government of Pakistan has pledged USD 3 million towards this program. We are determined to make our supply chains as compliant as possible and ensure that all workers are treated with

dignity and respect. We believe that Decent Work is not just a fundamental right but also a necessary condition for sustainable economic growth.

Strengthening supply chains involves formalizing enterprises and bringing workers who are currently excluded from labor laws under their purview. This ensures the extension of decent work opportunities and helps to regulate them. For instance, in Sindh Province, labor law reforms have helped to add agriculture and fisheries workers to the legislation.

With these initiatives, we believe that we can contribute towards a more sustainable and equitable global supply chain.

**I thank you.**

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